

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for selecting similar colors comprising the steps of
  - 5 (i) inputting a first color co-ordinates of a first color, and
  - (ii) selecting a color having second color co-ordinates that are similar with respect to the first color co-ordinates, and
  - 10 (iii) displaying a first color area for the first color on a screen, and (iv) displaying a second color areas for the second color on the screen, and
  - (v) selecting one of the second color areas, and
  - 15 (vi) shifting the selected second color area to a region of the first color area to produce a color edge.
2. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the displaying of first color area  
20 is in a central region of a display window and the displaying of the second color areas is in a peripheral region around the first color area.
3. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the first and second color  
25 co-ordinates belong to a first color co-ordinate system and the display of the first and second color areas on the screen is based on a second color co-ordinate system and the first and second color co-ordinates of the first color co-ordinate system are converted into corresponding first and second color co-ordinates of the second color co-ordinate system.
- 30 4. The process according to Claim 3, wherein the first color co-ordinate system is the CIELAB co-ordinate system and the second color co-ordinate system is the RGB system.

5. The process according to Claim 1 wherein step (ii) is made on the basis of a similarity quantity that is compared to a predetermined threshold value.
6. The process according to Claim 5, wherein a Euclidean distance between the first and second color co-ordinates in the first color co-ordinate system is used as similarity quantity.
7. The process according to Claim 5 wherein the similarity quantity includes product properties and interspaced color co-ordinates.
8. The process according to Claim 1 wherein step (v) is carried out via a graphic user interface.
9. The process according to Claim 1 wherein a color sample of a second color evaluated by the user as sufficiently similar is accessed in order to compare the color sample directly with a color sample of the first color.
10. A computer program product having programming means for executing the following steps:
  - (i) inputting a first color co-ordinates of a first color,
  - (ii) selecting a color with second color co-ordinates that are similar with respect to the first color co-ordinates,
  - (iii) displaying a first color area for the first color on a screen,
  - (iv) displaying second color areas for the second color on the screen,
  - (v) selecting of one of the second color areas,

- (vi) automatically shifting the selected second color area to a region of the first color area to produce a color edge.

11. The product according to Claim 10, wherein the first color area is displayed in a central region of a display window and wherein the second color areas are displayed in a peripheral region of the first color area.
12. The product according to Claim 10, further comprising the means to convert the color co-ordinates of a color from a first co-ordinate system to a second system .
13. The product according to Claim 10 wherein the first color co-ordinate system is the CIELAB co-ordinate system and the second system is the RGB system.
14. The product according to Claim 10 wherein step (ii) is carried out on the basis of a similarity quantity that is compared to a predetermined threshold value.
15. The product according to Claim 14 wherein a Euclidean distance between the first and second color co-ordinates in the first color co-ordinate system is used as similarity quantity.
16. The product according to Claim 14 wherein the similarity quantity includes product properties and interspaced color co-ordinates.
17. The product according to Claim 10 wherein step (v) is carried out via a graphic user interface.
18. A computer system comprising
- (i) means for inputting first color co-ordinates of a first color,

- (ii) means for inputting second color co-ordinates of a second color, the second color co-ordinates being similar to the first co-ordinates,
  - (iii) means for displaying a first color area for the first color on a screen,
  - (iv) means for displaying second color areas for the second colors on the screen,
  - (v) means for inputting a selection of one of the second color areas,
  - (vi) means for automatically shifting the selected second color area to a region of the first color area to produce a color edge.
- 15 19. The computer system according to Claim 18, wherein the displaying of the first color area is in a central region of a display window and the displaying of the second color areas is in a peripheral region of the first color area.
- 20 20. The computer system according to Claim 18 further comprising means for converting the co-ordinates of a first color system to second system..
21. The computer system according to Claim 20 wherein the first color system is the CIELAB co-ordinate system and the second system is the RGB system.
- 25 22. The computer system according to Claim 18 wherein (ii) is made on the basis of a similarity quantity that is compared to a predetermined threshold value.
23. The computer system according to Claim 22, wherein a Euclidean distance between the first and second color co-ordinates in the first color co-ordinate system is used as similarity quantity.
- 30

24. The computer system according to Claim 22 wherein the similarity quantity includes product properties and interspaced color co-ordinates.

25. The computer system according to Claim 18 wherein (v) is carried out via  
5 a graphic user interface.